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**EFFECTIVE POTENTIAL CALCULATION OF THE MSSM  
LIGHTEST CP-EVEN HIGGS BOSON MASS\***

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*In memory of Prof. Xi-De Xie.*

I summarize results of two-loop effective potential calculations of the lightest CP-even Higgs boson mass in the minimal supersymmetric standard model.

Computing the lightest CP-even Higgs boson mass is the most important loop calculation in the minimal supersymmetric standard model because of the paramount importance of a precise  $m_{h^0}$  value to the Higgs boson experimental discovery. Tree-level supersymmetry relations require that the Higgs field quartic coupling be related to the electroweak gauge couplings; therefore they impose a strict upper bound  $m_{h^0} \leq m_Z$ , which is already in conflict with the current lower limit from LEP 2.

It is well-known that this tree-level limit can be drastically changed by radiative corrections. One-loop calculations<sup>1</sup> show that incomplete cancellations of the top and stop loops give positive corrections of the form

$$\Delta m_{h^0}^2 = \frac{3h_t^2 m_t^2}{4\pi^2} \ln \frac{m_t^2}{m_{\tilde{t}}^2}, \quad (1)$$

where  $m_t$  and  $m_{\tilde{t}}$  are top and stop masses respectively. This formula, however, suffers from an ambiguity in the definition of  $m_t$ . Numerically, using running or on-shell top-quark mass can amount to about 20% difference in  $\Delta m_{h^0}^2$ . The problem can only be resolved by an explicit two-loop calculation.

Two-loop calculations in the existing literature have used two different approaches: (a) a renormalization group resummation approach<sup>2</sup>, and (b) a two-loop diagrammatic approach<sup>3,4,5</sup>. In the first approach, leading and next-to-leading logarithmic corrections are calculated by integrating one- and two-loop renormalization group equations. However, two-loop non-logarithmic finite corrections are not calculable in principle. The second approach was initiated by Hempfling and Hoang<sup>3</sup> using an effective potential method; they restricted their calculation to specific choice of supersymmetry parameters: *i.e.* large  $\tan\beta \rightarrow \infty$  and zero left-right stop mixing. Two-loop QCD corrections were later computed at more general cases<sup>5</sup> in the effective potential

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approach.  $m_{h^0}$  to the same two-loop QCD order was also computed<sup>4</sup> using an explicit diagrammatic method. These calculations incorporate both two-loop logarithmic and non-logarithmic finite corrections. In the following, I shall concentrate on the effective potential approach.

The general way of calculating corrections to CP-even Higgs boson mass is to compute Higgs self-energy and tadpole diagrams to the required loop order. In an effective potential approach, these diagrams can be derived from a generating functional, *i.e.* the effective potential, by taking explicit derivatives with respect to the Higgs fields. These quantities then enter the MSSM CP-even Higgs boson mass-squared matrix as follows

$$\mathcal{M}_h^2 = \begin{bmatrix} m_Z^2 c_\beta^2 + m_{A^0}^2 s_\beta^2 + \Delta\mathcal{M}_{11}^2 & -(m_Z^2 + m_{A^0}^2) s_\beta c_\beta + \Delta\mathcal{M}_{12}^2 \\ -(m_Z^2 + m_{A^0}^2) s_\beta c_\beta + \Delta\mathcal{M}_{21}^2 & m_Z^2 s_\beta + m_{A^0}^2 c_\beta + \Delta\mathcal{M}_{22}^2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\Delta\mathcal{M}_{ij}^2$  represents radiative corrections to the  $ij$ -entry. We note that all these corrections are computed at the zero external momentum limit; sometimes it is necessary to calculate self-energy diagrams directly to account for corrections from non-zero external momenta.

The CP-even Higgs boson masses can be calculated by diagonalizing the above matrix in eq. (2). This computation is tedious but can be greatly simplified when one considers the case  $m_{A^0} \gg m_Z$ , where  $m_{A^0}$  is the mass of the pseudoscalar  $A^0$ . In this case, we find the corrections to  $m_{h^0}^2$  is

$$\Delta m_{h^0}^2 = \frac{4m_t^4}{v^2} \left( \frac{d}{dm_t^2} \right)^2 V - \text{Re } \Pi_{hh}(m_{h^0}^2) + \text{Re } \Pi_{hh}(0). \quad (3)$$

where  $V$  is the effective potential,  $v$  the Higgs field VEV, and the last two terms account for non-zero external momentum corrections.

We have carried out this calculation procedure to the two-loop order including leading QCD<sup>5</sup> and top Yukawa<sup>6</sup> corrections. To illustrate our analysis, we present an approximation formula which is derived under the following assumptions: the soft masses for left and right stops, gluino, heavy Higgs bosons and Higgsinos have a common mass  $M_S$ , where  $M_S$  can be identified as the supersymmetry scale. The two eigenvalues and mixing angle of stops are then accordingly  $m_{\tilde{t}_1}^2 = m_t^2 + m_t X_t$ ,  $m_{\tilde{t}_2}^2 = m_t^2 - m_t X_t$  and  $s_t = c_t = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ , where the average top-squark mass  $m_{\tilde{t}}^2 = M_S^2 + m_t^2$ , and  $X_t = A_t + \mu/\tan\beta$  is the left-right stop mixing parameter.

We find the approximation formula for two-loop QCD+top Yukawa corrections is<sup>6</sup> (in terms of on-shell mass parameters)

$$\Delta m_{h^0}^2 = \frac{3m_t^4}{2\pi^2 v^2} \left( \ln \frac{m_t^2}{m_{\tilde{t}}^2} + \hat{X}_t^2 - \frac{\hat{X}_t^4}{12} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \frac{\alpha_s m_t^4}{\pi^3 v^2} \left( -3 \ln^2 \frac{m_t^2}{m_t^2} - 6 \ln \frac{m_t^2}{m_t^2} + 6 \hat{X}_t - 3 \hat{X}_t^2 \ln \frac{m_t^2}{m_t^2} - \frac{3 \hat{X}_t^4}{4} \right) \\
& + \frac{3 \alpha_t m_t^4}{16 \pi^3 v^2} \left\{ s_\beta^2 \left( 3 \ln^2 \frac{M_S^2}{m_t^2} + 13 \ln \frac{M_S^2}{m_t^2} \right) - 1 - \frac{\pi^2}{3} + c_\beta^2 \left( 60K + \frac{13}{2} + \frac{4\pi^2}{3} \right) \right. \\
& + \left[ 3 s_\beta^2 \ln \frac{M_S^2}{m_t^2} - c_\beta^2 \left( \frac{69}{2} + 24K \right) + 41 \right] \hat{X}_t^2 - \left( 1 + \frac{61}{12} s_\beta^2 \right) \hat{X}_t^4 + \frac{s_\beta^2}{2} \hat{X}_t^6 \\
& + c_\beta^2 \left[ (3 - 16K - \sqrt{3}\pi) (4 \hat{X}_t \hat{Y}_t + \hat{Y}_t^2) + \left( 16K + \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{3}} \right) \hat{X}_t^3 \hat{Y}_t \right. \\
& \left. \left. + \left( -\frac{4}{3} + 24K + \sqrt{3}\pi \right) \hat{X}_t^2 \hat{Y}_t^2 - \left( \frac{7}{12} + 8K + \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{3}} \right) \hat{X}_t^4 \hat{Y}_t^2 \right] \right\}, \quad (4)
\end{aligned}$$

where the constant  $K \simeq -0.195$ . We note that two-loop QCD corrections depend only on  $\hat{X}_t = X_t/m_{\tilde{t}}$  while the top Yukawa corrections depend on  $\hat{Y}_t = (A_t - \mu \tan \beta)/m_{\tilde{t}}$  as well. This approximation formula is good to a level of 0.5 GeV for most of the parameter space.

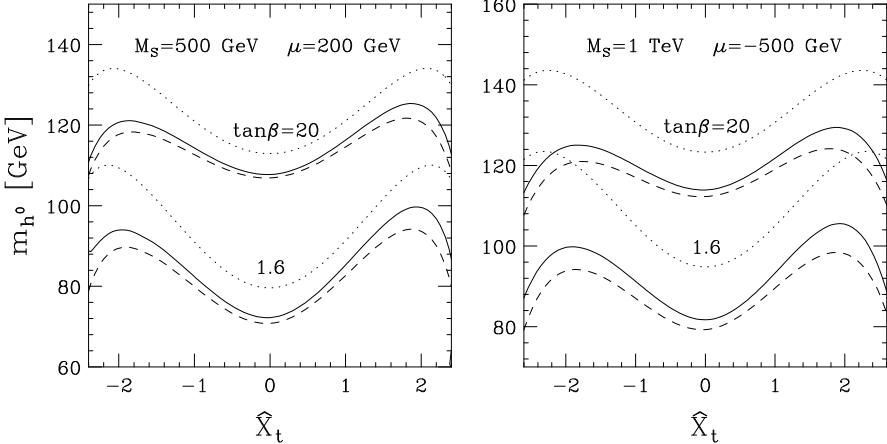


Figure 1. Higgs boson mass  $m_{h^0}$  versus  $\hat{X}_t$ . The dotted, dot-dashed and solid lines correspond to Higgs boson masses calculated to the orders of one-loop, two-loop QCD and two-loop QCD+top Yukawa respectively.

Fig. 1 shows the Higgs boson mass  $m_{h^0}$  vs. the stop mixing parameter  $\hat{X}_t$ , for different choices of  $M_S$ ,  $\mu$  and  $\tan \beta$ . The two-loop QCD corrections agree well with other approaches<sup>4</sup>. They generally decrease  $m_{h^0}$  from their

one-loop values by  $10 - 20$  GeV depending on the parameter choice. Two-loop Yukawa corrections are sizeable for large stop mixings, in particular, for  $\hat{X}_t \simeq \pm 2$  two-loop Yukawa corrections can increase  $m_{h^0}$  by about 5 GeV.

Another interesting feature observed in the literature<sup>4,5</sup> is that two-loop corrections shift the maximal mixing peaks. At the one-loop level, these peaks are at  $\hat{X}_t = \pm\sqrt{6}$ . It is easy to see from eq. (4) that the size of shifts is about 10%, *i.e.* the peaks move to  $\hat{X}_t \simeq \pm 2$ . This is confirmed by Fig. 1.

Finally, renormalization group resummation technique can be used to derive a particularly nice mass correction formula which has clearer physical interpretations. We find eq. (4) can be transformed into the following form by using solutions to the renormalization group equations

$$\Delta m_{h^0}^2 = \frac{3\bar{m}_t^4(Q_t)}{2\pi^2\bar{v}^2(Q_1^*)} \ln \frac{m_t^2(Q_{\text{th}})}{\bar{m}_t^2(Q_t')} + \frac{3\bar{m}_t^4(Q_{\text{th}})}{2\pi^2\bar{v}^2(Q_2^*)} \left[ \hat{X}_t^2(Q_{\text{th}}) - \frac{\hat{X}_t^4(Q_{\text{th}})}{12} \right] + \Delta_{\text{th}}^{(2)}, \quad (5)$$

where  $Q_1^* = e^{-1/3}m_t$ ,  $Q_2^* = e^{1/3}m_t$ ,  $Q_t = \sqrt{m_t m_{\bar{t}}}$ ,  $Q_t' = (m_t m_{\bar{t}})^{1/3}$  and  $Q_{\text{th}} = m_t$ ,  $\bar{v}$  and  $\bar{m}$  are the Standard Model  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  parameters. These choices of scales for evaluating one-loop corrections automatically take into account two-loop leading and next-to-leading logarithmic effects. The leftover finite correction term  $\Delta_{\text{th}}^{(2)}$  is understood as two-loop threshold corrections and numerically small; its detail form can be found in a forthcoming paper<sup>6</sup>.

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